

June 7, 1980

Dear Mom, Dad, & Mary,

We moved out of the hotel into our "flat" today. It is a small two bedroom apartment in a building very near the N.W. corner of Hyde Park. The address is

11 Consort House  
26 Queensway W2  
London, 25. K

If you want to spend more on postage you can write to us here. The phone number is

011-47-01-221-0590

London "area code"

5.70 + 74x

1.60

3.75 + TAX

5.70 + 74x

4.25 3 1.25

Last week we saw an ad from a real estate firm about rental flats so we stopped by to talk with them. Most of their close-in properties were far too expensive but this one is just affordable - partly because the owner has already left for his assignment in Germany. All rental flats are furnished but this one doesn't have a lot of furniture. We will store some of ours and push the existing items into the 2nd bedroom. There is one bathroom.

We couldn't resist this place because of the location. It is adjacent to the park where we have been jogging every morning.

Furthermore, the street we look out over is one of the most interesting in London. Every type of shop, restaurant, and pub is within a few blocks of us. There is a famous underground ice-skating rink across the street. There are always crowds but the apartment is well-insulated for noise. While walking along the street one hears every language imaginable. We have already had some of the very best Indian and Chinese food ever. Another advantage is that ~~two tube~~ stations are directly across the street. I can walk to work, about 1/2 hour, or take the tube and get there in fifteen minutes.

I haven't begun working yet and will, in fact, take the rest of the week off. I have met with Frank Shoup who I am replacing. Today he helped me get a checking account started. ~~We didn't take our trip~~ to Belgium because we got involved with the flat, but we may go the latter part of this week. We have been very busy, running five miles in the morning and walking at least ten during the rest of the day. We eat enormous meals.

Last week we attended an outdoor matinee performance of "A Midsummer's Night Dream".

in Regent's Park. Tomorrow we may go to the  
"real ale" festival in London City (the square  
mile inside the ancient walls). The pubs are  
great places to stop after a long day and  
we always have two pints of "bitter" each.

The weather here is much like Seattle,  
but perhaps even more changeable. It has been  
mostly dry but clouds and showers can  
spring up very rapidly and then disappear  
just as quickly or linger for a couple of  
hours.

We are having a great time and are  
very excited about living in London. Every-  
thing has gone smoothly so far. Hope to  
hear from you soon -

Love,

Jim & Vickie